

## FORT GEORGE G. MEADE RETIREE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one-hundred and fourteenth (114) meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at building 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland at 9:08AM, 5 December 2009, and in accordance with AR600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted.

a. The following members were present:

MG Roderick Isler, USA Ret (Chairman - incoming)  
COL Bert L. Rice, USA Ret (Chairman - outgoing)  
SGM Kenneth L. McCall, Sr., USA Ret (Co-Chairman)  
COL Erwin A. Burtnick, AUS Ret  
LTC Jeanette Hammond, USA Ret  
MAJ William Heath, USA Ret  
CW3 Gregory Crites, USN Ret  
CSM Sandra Matlock-Williams, USA Ret  
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret  
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret  
MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret  
1SG Richard Gillman, USA Ret  
1SG Eugene Johnson, USA Ret  
MSGT Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret  
SSG Walter B. Hollman, Sr., USA Ret  
Mrs Catherine Eckford  
Mrs Cecille Morse

2. The meeting was called to order with a welcome from COL Rice. The invocation was given by SGM McCall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by COL Rice.

a. COL Daniel Thomas, Installation Commander, was introduced and he thanked the Council for all that they do in support of the military retired community and the installation. He wished all a Happy Holiday and had to depart for another engagement.

b. MG Roderick Isler, the incoming Council chairman was introduced with more on him to follow.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the Council's meeting of 12 September 2009, with the Council who accepted the minutes unanimously. COL Rice then introduced the following guest:

a. AAFES (John Mendez - General Manager and Vincent James - Store Manager).

(1) Mr James reported on all of the holiday sales and events that will occur at the store in December 2009 and invited all to attend as well as spread the word on all of the festivities.

He also thanked the Council for all that they do in support of the store and its other activities.

(2) Mr Mendez reported on the following:

\*The Robin Hood restaurant has been closed and is being replaced by a Subway restaurant that will be opening within the week.

\*The Burger King restaurant is undergoing additional repairs and will not open on the date previously reported. Charley's restaurant is opening earlier to serve breakfast at their place in the PX compound.

\*A new 24-hour shoppette has been requested to be located on Mapes Road and will include two (2) food concessions. More will be reported upon final approval for funding, etc. The current shoppette will receive several improvements as well.

\*A new Military Star Card promotion calls for receiving a 20 cent discount per gallon of fuel if customers use their Star Card to purchase fuel at the AAFES pump and is scheduled to end the first part of January 2010.

(3) Question, Answer and Comments:

\*COL Rice stated that the new car wash was great (all agreed). Mr Mendez stated that they are working to upgrade the system so that customers can pay at the pump to receive the car wash.

\*Mrs Morse commented on the lack of availability of clothing for the mature women in the PX. (To be evaluated)

Gift bags with selected items were distributed to all in attendance.

b. Commissary (Mr Frank Macias - Store Manager) remarked on the following:

(1) The outstanding support the military retired community provides the store and extending a grateful thank you for same.

(2) Identified some of the holiday items that the store will carry and that gift vouchers would be available for purchase to give to authorized users.

(3) Applications are available for Family Members interested in vying for the Commissary's 2010 Scholarship Program.

(4) Minor renovations for certain areas of the store are scheduled and should not affect the quality of service to our customers.

(5) Question, Answer and Comments:

\*MSG Barron - Are there plans for the commissary to relocate part of the store? (No.) If a product is no longer in stock, does it mean that it will no longer be carried? (No) Some items may be undergoing a repackaging by the producer and have not been shipped in a timely manner. Also, if a product is not on the shelf that is normally carried, request it through the store manager.

\*CSM Matlock-Williams - Are there plans to install more price check scanners in the store? (There are two and we will evaluate the need for more)

\*MSGT Plummer - It appears that during some of the busier hours, all lanes are not placed in operation which creates extremely long lines? (The availability of baggers is a problem and we are working with the Head Bagger to resolve same.)

NOTE: Some of the issues pertaining to the stores bagging operation were determined to be personal in nature and not one to be addressed by the Council.

\*COL Rice - The PX expansion includes use of a portion of their parking lot. Does the Commissary plan to do the same? (No)

NOTE: Mr Macias distributed gifts to all in attendance.

c. Anthony Barber, Deputy Director of Human Resources - Provided an update on the ID card section, its hours, and the availability of appointments by going on-line or by telephone. He provided his telephone number for those who wished to call him (301/677-4209).

SGM Gilbert asked for the date that social security numbers will no longer be included on ID card and Mr Barber stated January 2010.

4. RSO REMARKS. Mr Ashley remarked on the following:

a. Retiree Appreciation Day - Attendance in excess of 325 (very good), all liked the location and the performance by the 3rd Infantry Regiments Drill Team. The location was excellent as well as the meal at the Freedom Inn and attendees enjoyed being able to converse with the active military.

b. The date for the next RAD is 1 October 2010.

c. The passing of MSG Joseph Matthews, USA Ret and former Fort Meade RSO, was announced. Services were held at Fort Hood, Texas.

\*COL Burtnick announced that consideration be given for having a Vehicle Registration booth at the next RAD. (This will be coordinated with the appropriate office)

5. NEW CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS. MG Isler expressed his thanks for the opportunity to be a part of the Council and was impressed by the involvement of the Council in so many areas of the installations activities. He provided the Council with information relative to his background and career prior to retiring from active duty. And like the Council, he too still serves as a volunteer in a number of organizations and has a full time job as well. He also serves on the Fort Meade Golf Council and answered a number of questions relative to the Course.

\*COL Rice recognized the experience that MG Isler brings to the Council and stated that he would like to stay on as a member of the Council which was approved by MG Isler

6. OLD BUSINESS. None.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Surviving Spouse Benefits Symposium - COL Rice reported that this activity is being planned on Saturday, 19 June 2010, to be held at the Club Meade, from 9 AM to 2 PM with a lunch being served. Club Meade will be open by 8 AM for setup purposes. Ms Morse will gather the particulars for this event and will report on same at the next Council meeting.

b. Army Chief of Staff (CoS) Retiree Council Meeting and issue for same. MG Isler and COL Rice posed an issue pertaining to retiree medical care and TriCare and the possible negative affect proposed legislation may have on same. After discussion, it was agreed that this concern be forwarded to the CoS Retiree Council for review. It had to be submitted not later than 15 December 2009 and the Fort Meade Council agreed to have a letter addressing our concerns prepared by MG Isler and COL Rice, and submitted as required.

8. APG UPDATE. None. No representatives attended meeting.

9. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE. None. No representatives attended meeting.

10. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL. Mrs Morse stated that the new council had met and as the Retiree Council's representative, she would be available to deliver any concerns that we have relative to KACC medical service. (This does not preclude an individual under emergency circumstances, going directly to the facility for problem resolution.)

11. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL. No comments.

12. CO-CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS. SGM McCall addressed the following:

a. A reiteration on the appointment of Edward Chow as the new Secretary for the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs.

b. The unknown status of the opening of a federal VA clinic at Fort Meade. (COL Rice stated that it was delayed due to design change by VA but is still on track to be completed.)

c. The opening of federal VA to accepting Priority Group 8 veterans to receive medical care, etc. and the need to register for same.

d. The approval of the federal VA budget.

e. Maryland's initiative to help employers with a tax credit when they hire a veteran and certain conditions are met.

f. The Fort Meade Community Councils efforts to address some of the concerns submitted by the Retiree Council.

g. Recognized those Retiree Council members who assisted in the RAD activities and those who donated door prizes:

COL Rice  
COL Burtnick  
LTC Hammond  
SGM McCall  
SFC DePorto  
SSG Hollman  
Mrs Eckford  
Mrs Morse

h. Council Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, 6 March 2010 - Review plans for the Surviving Spouse Benefits Symposium and discuss RAD program for 2010.

Saturday, 5 June 2010 - Finalize plans for the Surviving Spouse Benefits Symposium and review plans for the RAD.

Saturday, 11 September 2010 - Finalize plans for the 1 October 2010 RAD and address possible issues for the Army CoS Retiree Council Meeting.

Saturday, 4 December 2010 - Finalize issues to be submitted to the ACoS Retiree Council.

### 13. GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION.

a. COL Burtnick remarked on the efforts being made by the Maryland Veterans Commission to develop a program that would identify honorably discharged veterans and those commercial activities that have programs that offer discounts and the like, to them.

COL Burtnick will review the status of this initiative and report to the Council at its March 2010 meeting.

b. MG Isler stated that he looks forward to working with the Council to move forward in meeting the requirements of AR 600-8-7 and the needs of the military retired community and the installation.

c. The PX presented additional gifts.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:41AM and a reminder was issued relative to the next meeting that will be held at building 2234, 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade, MD 20755 at 9 AM, 6 March 2010.

RODERICK ISLER  
MG, USA RET  
Chairman, Fort Meade  
Retiree Council

KENNETH L. MCCALL, SR.  
SGM, USA RET  
Co-Chairman, Fort Meade  
Retiree Council